CALPEEK

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***ENERGY & POLITICS*: TWO HOT ENERGY BALLOT MEASURES IN S.F. CITY ELECTION: "I" AND "F"...**

Editor's note: While Calif. Gov. Gray Davis(D) continues to battle to rescue So. Calif. Edison(SCE) from bankruptcy, voters in San Francisco are faced with two controversial energy ballot measures. Measure I would create a new municipal utility district and Measure F would replace the current appointed local PUC with an elected board. Here's our update and analysis...

...Measure I first. This local initiative is the brainchild of *Bay Guardian* publisher Bruce Brugmann. For years, Brugmann has been after PG&E and some think Brugmann's timing is just about perfect – given the current circumstances which the State's largest investor owned utility now faces. But putting a MUD together isn't as easy as some may think. Turns out that one can't just create a MUD because these agencies are complex creatures under State law. The big problem for Brugmann was that the City & County of S.F. couldn't form an MUD by itself. So Brugmann had to scrap his first initiative and add the small city of Brisbane (pop. 4,000) just to the south of S.F. There were other problems as well: the S.F. Co. Board of Supes had to create a local agency formation commission(LAFCO) to help put this MUD proposal on the Nov. 5th ballot...

...The other key energy proposal is Measure F. Because there may be legal problems with Measure I, Board of Supes Pres. Tom Ammiano came up with this alternative. As noted above, if approved, the appointed local PUC would be replaced with 7 elected members. While this initiative seems fairly harmless (the PUC has control over water, power, plus garbage collection and telecommunications), written into F is a section which allows the elected members to approve bonds without voter approval, this according to the opposition. And what we're talking about here is a possible takeover of PG&E assets which serve S.F. ($800 million to $1 billion)...

...There are two opposition groups: Solem & Associates is handling NO on F & I under the banner of *The Coalition for Affordable Public Services*; while Barnes, Mosher, Whitehurst et al is only doing NO on I – key backers here are telecommunications firms. S.F. based consultant Harvey Hukari and Tom Hsieh Jr. are also part of the Solem team...

...The YES side will be outspent, but as noted previously, in politics *timing is everything*. Sources say the NO side has polled on Measure I, but they are keeping the results to themselves. Our best guess is that YES is winning, but there's probably a large undecided, meaning YES is not over 50%. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CONSULTANTS DIRECTORY ON SALE

Calpeek's 2001-02 ***Directory of Campaign Consultants*** is off the press and ready for sale. There are about 300 listings in the Directory. Cost is ***$30***. *Checks only*. No credit cards and no invoicing. The Directory will only be sold via subscription to current **Calpeek** subscribers. Send payment with your name, address, etc. (please type or print clearly) to Calif. Political Week or Calpeek, P.O. Box 1468, Beverly Hills, CA 90213...

***U.S. AT WAR*: CALIF. CREATES ANTI-TERRORISM INFO CENTER. BUSH'S NUMBERS GAIN IN CALIF.**

Editor's note: It's now been almost 3 weeks since the Sept. 11th terror attack on the U.S. which thus far has claimed 512 confirmed dead and another 6,347 missing and presumed dead at the World Trade Center towers in NYC. Pres. George W. Bush's popularity has soared during this time and even Demos are giving the new chief executive some good marks. The nation is into ***bi-partisanship*** because it's now united against a common foe: Osama bi Landen and his *Al Qaeda* terror network, which operates in at least 20-30 countries around the world – including cells in the U.S. Here's our update & commentary...

...In Calif., Gov. Gray Davis and Calif. AG Bill Lockyer signed a Sept. 25th MOU (memorandum of understanding) creating the ***Calif. Anti-Terrorism Information Center*** (CATIC). CATIC will cost $1.2 million over the next 6 months (including set up costs). After that, CATIC may run about $3-4 million per year. The CATIC's job, as noted in last week's issue of **Calpeek**, is to collect info from all

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Calif. law enforcement agencies and put this info into a central database – from which threat assessments can be made. In terms of Calif. law enforcement, we're talking all PDs, 58 county Sheriffs and DA departments, the CHP and the State Police. The center will have a 14-member executive advisory board (task force), appointed by Davis. The governor has already appointed L.A. Co. Sheriff Lee Baca to serve as the task force leader. In addition, Gov. Davis has named CHP Comm. Dwight Helmick as his intel officer…

…The CATIC was set up in response to a U.S. Dept. of Justice(DOJ) request to establish state & local counter-terrorism task forces to work **with** Calif.'s 4 U.S. Attys., the FBI, ATF, INS, USSS, et al. In No. Calif., the U.S. Atty. has appointed Leslie Caldwell to head up the Fed's task force. There's a counter-part in the L.A. area, but U.S. Atty. John Gordon won't publicly announce it (for security reasons). The key question: will the Feds really share data with local law enforcement? In the past they have been very reluctant partners, especially the FBI…

…As of now, most State & local law enforcement, especially the larger agencies, are *better equipped* to handle domestic terrorism and gang violence than foreign terrorism. However, **Calpeek** sources think it will be easy for the larger local agencies to refocus. The L.A.P.D., for example, already has a Dignitary Protection unit and an Anti-Terrorism unit. One thing is clear: the U.S. Atty., FBI and other Feds can't do all the work themselves and MUST get major assistance from the locals…

♦ ***Homeland Security*** – Pres. Bush is following one of the key recommendations of the Hart-Rudman Anti-Terrorism Commission: establishment of a permanent office, agency or cabinet level department of ***Homeland Security***. Pres. Bush has named PA Gov. Tom Ridge(R) to head this new creation. Under the commission's proposal, which seems to have lots of support in the U.S. Senate, a cabinet level department would be created to coordinate domestic security issues. Better to have Ridge with the title of Secretary of Homeland Security because it would put him on equal footing with other cabinet level officials he'd be working with…

…In the U.S. House, the Intelligence Committee has formed the new *Subcommittee on Terrorism & Homeland Security*. U.S. Rep. Saxby Chambliss(R-GA) will chair, with U.S. Rep. Jane Harman(D-Redondo Beach) as ranking member. Also on the panel: U.S. Rep. Gary Condit(D-Ceres). Key function of the new subcommittee: figuring out what went wrong and coming up with solutions for better communications between various and *competing* Federal law enforcement agencies…

♦ ***Immigration Amnesty*** – Is it still alive or DOA? Probably the latter as a result of the Sept. 11th attack. Director Dan Stein of the DC-based Federation for American Immigration Reform says the attack was a wake up call. FAIR has been screaming for years for tougher border controls, better control over visas. One ally is U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein(D-CA), who said she'll introduce legislation to reform the U.S. student visa program. A number of the hijackers were in the U.S. on student visas, but never enrolled in the colleges they were supposed to attend. DiFI also called for a 6-month moratorium on student visas until the INS gets it act together…

♦ ***Bush's Numbers in Calif.*** – The latest Field Poll tested Pres. Bush's popularity in Calif. His job approval rating is **77%** approve vs. **16%** disapprove and **10%** with no opinion. The poll was taken Sept. 17-18 among 1,084 Calif. residents. But **Calpeek** sources offer a cautionary note: the President's numbers could go south if there's a huge military screw up; or if the economy tumbles even further. Stay tuned…

***CAMPAIGN 2002*: A FIRST LOOK AT FOUR BOARD OF EQUALIZATION CONTESTS. NOT MUCH ACTIVITY.**

Editor's note: The 5-members of the Calif. Board of Equalization consist of 4 BOE members plus the Calif. Controller, who is an ex-officio member of the BOE. These five individuals hear tax appeals and set assessments on utilities. It also sets rules for the 58 individual county tax assessors. In other words, this very obscure board has a huge amount of power. Here's our first update about the 2002 election…

…*Termed out* BOE members Johan Klehs(D-1) and Dean Andal(R-2) hope to capitalize on their nearly 8 years on the BOE to run for State Controller. Politically, the BOE has never really been much of a spring board to statewide office, although appointed BOE member Matt Fong(R) was able to successfully run for State Treasurer from the BOE in 1994. So it remains to be seen whether Klehs and Andal will be successful…

…The other two BOE members, 3rd District member Claude Parish(R) and 4th District member John Chiang(D), will seek reelection and at this point they have no serious opposition…

…Back to the 1st District. This district is heavily Demo in party registration and thus far only one major candidate has emerged: Assemblywoman Carole Migden of S.F. She has a large warchest and solid name ID in the S.F. bay area. And she's chair of the key Assembly Appropriations Cmt.

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In other words, she's got political muscle to win this seat. Only a self-funded multi-millionaire would have a shot and at this point no one like that has emerged…

…As for the 2nd District, it's the opposite of the 1st District: heavy GOP in voter registration. In other words, Demos need not apply. Sources say State Sen. Jim Costa(D-Fresno) briefly looked here, but decided not to run after the new lines were drawn in reapportionment. Veteran Assemblyman Bill Leonard(R-Upland) is the only serious GOP candidate to emerge thus far, but others have looked at it, including State Sen. Pete Knight(R-Palmdale) and Senate GOP Leader Jim Brulte(R-Rancho Cucamonga). Knight has set up a BOE committee, but hasn't moved forward. Brulte (who certainly has a huge warchest) is staying put in the State Senate. And Brulte's home of Rancho Cucamonga is no longer in this huge geographic district, which now runs from the Oregon border, down through the Central Valley to Leonard's home in Upland. Leonard has hired Sacto-based Gilliard Blanning to run his BOE campaign. And he's already begun to lock up key GOP slates. Stay tuned…

***FULL METAL JACKET*: SEVERAL KEY GUN BILLS GET TO GOV. DAVIS' DESK. WHAT'S HE GOING TO DO???**

Editor's note: The first half of the Legislative session is now history and several gun bills ended up on Gov. Gray Davis' desk. He repeatedly asked lawmakers to give those new gun laws he signed in previous years a chance to take effect, but it didn't do much good. What will Davis do? Will he sign these bills or veto them? Here's our update & analysis…

…The highest profile gun bill(s) to pass the CA Legislature were *AB 35* (Kevin Shelley) and *SB 52* (Jack Scott). These two bills replace the current Basic Firearms Safety Certificate program with a Handgun Safety Certificate (HSC) – the word license isn't used, but that's what this new certificate amounts to. Instead of watching a video, the law (which kicks in Jan. 1, 2003) requires new handgun owners to pass a written test and demonstrate that they can safely load and unload their new weapon…

…Both AB 35/SB 52 are identical, but unless Gov. Davis signs both bills, neither goes into effect. In other words, both bills contain "poison pill" provisions. And get this, the bill which Davis signs last is the one which takes effect. There's lots of pressure building on Davis to sign Shelley's AB 35 last because 1) Shelley is running for Statewide office; and 2) Shelley was more accommodating to the line cop groups in amending his bill, according to sources…

…In terms of who won and lost in the battle over 35/52, the legislation makes Calif. into an express licensing state. However, Calif. had been a *defacto* licensing state ever since 1991 – when the Basic Firearms Safety Certificate program was put into effect. Regardless, Calif. now joins with 7 other states who require some form of license before a person can buy a new handgun. In terms of real impact on legitimate individuals who want to buy a new handgun – not much will change…

…A potentially more significant gun bill is ***SB 950*** by GOP Senate Leader Jim Brulte of Rancho Cucamonga (co-authors are Scott and Sen. Steve Peace). Calif. AG Bill Lockyer was a sponsor of SB 950. This bill creates a new database to ID an estimated 200,000 to 2 million illegal gun owners in Calif. These are people who initially passed a background check, but then who fell into a category that prohibited them from owning or possessing guns. This bill had backing from the NRA, PORAC and CA Sheriffs and passed without any opposition…

…FYI: Proponents of 35/52 are playing up the fact that both bills have a number of provisions that better identify persons who wish to buy guns. One of the provisions requires not just a CA Driver's License or State ID card, but also requires the individual to prove that he/she is a Calif. resident. This provision was somewhat controversial – until Sept. 11th. Supporters of 35/52 note that 4 of the terrorists who hijacked the plane which crashed into the Pentagon exploited an unusual legal loophole to obtain a Virginia driver's licenses, even though they'd didn't live there. Stay tuned…

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Oct. 9-12	Regional Council of Rural Counties, annual conference, Tenaya Lodge, Mariposa Co.
Oct. 14	Last day for Gov. Davis to sign bills.
Oct. 23	Runoff election, L.A. City Council Dist. #4.
Oct. 26	13th annual VICA Business Forecast Conf. at Warner Center Marriott Hotel.
Oct. 27	CRP Convention – Westin LAX Hotel.
Oct. 29	Calif. candidate declaration of intent for 2002.
Nov. 6	S.F. Municipal Election.
Nov. 9-12	IAPC 34th World Conference, Malta.
Nov. 15	Calif.'s Future in the Balance seminar sponsor-by Pat Brown Inst., AT&T – Wilshire Grand Hotel, L.A.
Dec. 4-8	Nat'l League of Cities convention, Atlanta.
Dec. 11	Special election – L.A. City 2nd Council Dist.

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CALPPEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.
Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting…

■ ***Moreno Gets CA Supreme Court Nomination*** – U.S. District Judge Carlos R. Moreno, 52, has been named by Gov. Gray Davis to the CA Supreme Court as an associate justice. If confirmed (very likely), Moreno would replace the late Stanley Mosk. The nominee is a Demo; he's from East L.A.; went to Yale and then to Stanford Law School. He is described as a legal scholar. News reports say Moreno is pro-choice and pro-death penalty. Former Gov. George Deukmejian first appointed Moreno to the bench in Compton and former Gov. Pete Wilson promoted him to the L.A. Superior Court. Former Pres. Bill Clinton named Moreno to the federal court. Moreno will face voters in November of 2002. FYI: Gov. Davis named Richard Mosk(Stanley's son) and Dennis Perluss to the Court of Appeals in L.A…

■ ***S.F. Mayor Willie Brown for CA Senate in 2004*** – He has $300,000 in pledges thus far and another big event set for Nov. 17th (black-tie). The seat Brown has his eyes on is now held by Senate Demo Leader John Burton(D). Burton is termed out in 2004…

■ ***Condit Watch*** – Voters in the 18th CD (U.S. Rep. Gary Condit's district) received a Sept. 20th letter from the embattled congressman saying that his Oct. 20th *Condit Country Roundup* has been "postponed indefinitely." However, there is a folo-up sentence: "look forward to rescheduling in the future." **Calpeek** sources say this is Condit's way of postponing a high-profile event and at the same time keeping his political options OPEN. Of course, the longer Condit puts off an announcement, the more it hurts his close ally, Demo Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza(26), who had planned to run for the 12th SD. If Condit decides NOT to seek reelection (as most insiders now think), Cardoza would run for the 18th CD along with a number of other Demos. As for the 12th SD, our sources say there are at least 3 Demos already looking: current Assemblyman Simon Salinas(D-28); former Assemblyman and Stanislaus Co. Sup. Sal Cannella; and former Assemblyman and now State Parks & Recreation Director Rusty Areias…

■ ***Insurance Commissioner Race Update*** – Appointed Demo Insurance Comm. Harry Low, a former jurist, has decided NOT to run in the March 5th 2002 primary. That means there are only 3 Demos left – and still no serious GOP candidates. However, with Uncle Sam possibly calling U.S. Army Reservist Tom Umberg to active duty (he's a bird colonel), the Demo primary may be down to just two: former IC John Garamendi and Assemblyman Tom Calderon. We'll just have to wait and see what happens…

■ ***L.A. City 4th District Election Follow-Up*** – Former State Sen. David Roberti(D) has now officially endorsed Tom LaBonge in the Oct. 23rd runoff election with Beth Garfield. LaBonge finished first in the primary to replace the late John Ferraro with 31.96%. Garfield was second with 18.57% and Roberti trailed Garfield by 225 votes. Since Garfield attacked Roberti in the mail several times, it was a given the former Demo leader would not endorse her. In other news from this special, Garfield has now pumped in another $350,000 – bringing her self-funding total contribution to $700,000. All spending caps are off in this race, which may go down as one of the most expensive city council races of all time. FYI: Garfield's campaign released a new survey by pollsters Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin (Sept. 18-20, 500 likely voters) which shows LaBonge 39% vs. Garfield at 35%, with 26% undecided…

■ ***Davis Wins a Legal Battle*** – Remember those cable tv and radio ads bashing Gov. Gray Davis' energy policies?? Those ads were aired by the American Taxpayers Alliance, a DC-based group headed by former RNC exec. director Scott Reed. Calif. Sup. Court Judge David Garcia on Sept. 17th granted an injunction requested by Davis' political committee to force the ATA to file a list of its contributors, as required by State law. The Davis Cmt. claims that Reed's group is nothing but a front for big energy companies – the very group which Davis has been bashing all year long…

CALPEEK's NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.
Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook…

● L.A.-based Consensus Planning Group has hired Jennifer Emi as a Sr. Assoc.; Andrea Rodriguez and Christopher Grogan as project specialists…

● Former tv/radio news reporter Ryan Richert has joined Sacto-based McNally Temple Assoc. as a sr. AE…

● The L.A.-based p/a govt. affairs Afriat Consulting Group has hired Tim Tucker as director of p/a. Also Robert Kalonian has been promoted to director of operations; Brian Chin is now director of land use; and Victor Martin will assist in all these areas…

● COGS South has moved to 3309 S. Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92707. (714)557-4779…

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